(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Problems of rubber growers of Assam

3586. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rubber growers of Assam State are facing a lot of problems in the absence of potential users in the domestic market as well as in the country and they are not getting adequate profit to their product;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to mitigate the problems of rubber growers and to boost production and profit of this region;

(c) whether Government propose to export Indian Rubber to other neighbouring countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government through Rubber Board is implementing a Rubber Plantation Development Scheme exclusively for North Eastern Region. This scheme provides for technical and financial assistance to growers of this region for cultivation of rubber, supply of inputs at concessional price to increase productivity, support for harvesting and post harvesting including processing facilities for quality upgradation and value addition etc.

(c) and (d) Export of natural rubber is already free under the Foreign Trade Policy.

Setting up of Rubber Industry in Tripura

3587. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Rubber Board are taking up a major plan of setting up a rubber industry in the State of Tripura;

(b) whether the project has been approved by the competent authority;

(c) the amount to be involved; and

(d) by when the work will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Rubber Board is assisting the Government of Tripura in establishing an Infrastructural Development Park (Rubber Park), in Agartala, for promoting rubber based industries in the State. The park is being set up under the Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme of Government of India. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 700 lakh. Land suitable for setting up the park has been identified by the Government of Tripura.

Trade with China

3588. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to increase trade with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of bilateral trade carried out between the two countries so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the Joint Statement released during the recent visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India, the two sides stressed the importance of expanding the bilateral trade between India and China.

(c) The following are the provisionsl figures of India-China bilateral trade:

(Value in US $ Million)

	2003-04	2004-05 (April-Jan)
Total Trade with China	7008	8915

(*Source:* DGCI&S)